

MEMORIAL

OF THE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF PHILADELPHIA,

PRAYING

The adoption of measures to facilitate the intercourse between that city and the ocean, during the winter season, and for the preservation of the piers at Reedy island.

APRIL 24, 1838.

Referred to the Committee on Commerce, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled :

The memorial of the Chamber of Commerce of the city of Philadelphia,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS :

That it is of great importance to the commerce and navigation of the State of Pennsylvania, that free access should be had to the ocean during the period of the year when the Delaware river, below the port of Philadelphia, is obstructed by ice, which, in some seasons, has continued for many months ; that the experiment of keeping the navigation open by means of ice-boats has been tried, without the success anticipated ; and that nothing now remains to accomplish the desired result, but the establishment of such facilities for the landing and shipping of merchandise at several points on the river Delaware, connected with Philadelphia by a railroad, as are open to the sea at all times, or are so generally.

Your memorialists have understood that three several applications have been made, or are about to be made, to your honorable bodies :

One from the citizens of New Castle, praying that that place may be made a port of entry.

One from a meeting of the citizens of Philadelphia, soliciting Congress to cause a survey to be made, and the requisite appropriation to be granted, for the location of a winter harbor at some point on the river Delaware, between Marcus Hook and the Christiana creek ; and

One from the citizens of Chester, praying for an appropriation by Congress for the purpose of constructing ware-houses, and making other arrangements at that port for the discharging and loading of vessels, during the season when the Delaware is obstructed by ice at points higher up than Chester.

Believing that each of the measures contemplated by the preceding applications would be beneficial to the commerce of Philadelphia, the chamber respectfully recommends to the favorable consideration of Congress the whole, or such of them as may be considered by your honorable bodies entitled to precedence.

The chamber also earnestly recommends to the notice of Congress the decayed and dilapidated condition of the piers near Reedy island. The distance from the breakwater to New Castle, eighty miles, is too great to be reached at all times, in one tide, during the prevalence of certain winds, and, long since, Congress provided a place of security by the erection of the piers referred to. The lapse of time and the neglect of repairs have rendered them comparatively useless, and it is, therefore, of the first importance to vessels ascending and descending the Delaware, during the winter season, that they should be repaired or replaced, or that others should be constructed at some more convenient spot, if such is to be found on a survey of the bay.

All which is respectfully submitted.

D. W. COXE,
President.